My curiosity about Mr Michael Weisenburg maybe paradoxical his statement, he never recognize the wishes from our beloved Brother Robert J Wickenheiser and he was no concern, sympathy for Wickenheiser wishes.. And I remembered Robert J Wickenheiser encourage me to show at University of South Carolina Library of John Milton and that is according from the book of Robert J Wickenheiser and Terrance Lindall The John Milton Projects 2009-2015 by Terrance Lindall. And my observation was not a consistent and not harmonious because Michael Weisenburg is not following the wishes for Robert J Wickenheiser. Instead he read the book story of Robert J Wickenheiser and Terrance Lindall The John Milton Projects 2009-2015. And I noticed Michael Weisenburg never had a give in consideration for Robert J Wickenheiser.. That's my opinion... from the book of John Milton's Projects 2009-2015, and I want to share my opinion..
Category: Michael Weisenburg, Bienvenido Bones Bañez Jr, Elizabeth Sudduth, Terrance Lindall, Robert J Wickenheiser, Yuko Nii Foundation, John Milton, Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter Winter 2013, Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Phillip Somozo.
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And here's the whole story:

And here's the whole story:
Exhibition for University of South Carolina Library of John Milton Is Postponed! And Here's Historical Context of Three Miltonists of Paradise Lost Revised Copy of Proposal for an Art Exhibit 2027
https://online.fliphtml5.com/yyqbr/gdvg/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR6gApxkSwNDVFVJjV4cOJ_bwu9HHAtJ9CoXF9PJaGhC-Tjxw6akkBzZc04yBQ_aem_JXAsS1M09SJ3UEHj1KDhTQ#p=1
General Information
Exhibit Title: The Three Contemporary Miltonists
Arts and Letters Exhibit
Exhibit Period: One week in November 2027, commemorative of Dr. R.J. Wickenheiser's DOD, or earlier
Venue: University of South Carolina
South Carolina, U.S.A.
1.4 Featured Artists: Terrance Lindall and Bienvenido Bones Banez, Jr., with Dr. R.J. Wickenheiser
Proponent: Williamsburg Art & Historical Center
135 Broadway, Brooklyn
New York
Contact Person: Terrance Lindall
Executive Director
WAH Center, and

Bienvenido Bones Banez
1.6 Submitted to: Michael Weisunburg
Director, Irvin Department
University of South Carolina Libraries

Written by: Phillip Somozo (for Bienvenido Bones Banez, Jr., and Terrance Lindall)

Background

The classic epic poem Paradise Lost by John Milton has grown with universal significance in today's world and is expected to grow with even more into the future.

Doctor Robert J. Wickenheiser (died 2015) is the collector of probably one of the world's largest Miltoniana housed in the Irvin Department of Special Collections of the University of South Carolina Library. In a lecture at the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center in New York in 2012, Dr. Wickenheiser described Terrance Lindall as the contemporary world's foremost illustrator of Paradise Lost (Attachment 1).

Lindall's Milton-related masterpieces showcases The Paradise Lost Elephant Folio, a hand-embellished synopsis of the epic poem. It is a monumental work of art presented to the public on the day of

presented to the public on the day of Wickenheiser's lecture (Attachment 2). As a gesture of deep appreciation and friendship, Wickenheiser purchased one of only two copies of the tome for his collection. The other remained in the WAH Center in Brooklyn, NY, of which Lindall is the Executive Director. After the abovementioned lecture, Lindall introduced to Wickenheiser a surrealist artist whose PL illustration was used as one of the visual aids in the lecture (Attachment 3). His name: Bienvenido Bones Banez, Jr.

Banez, from the Philippines, had come to New York after spending two months of artist residency at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT. He had earlier won the Freeman Asian painting competition of the said international artists' community regarded as America's largest. His chief mentor in the Fine Arts college in his home country was the late Filipino National Artist Victor Edades.

It is in the WAH Center that the artistic talents of Lindall and Banez reached a conjunction during an art exhibition aptly titled Brave Destiny (2003) curated by the former. Looking at Banez's displayed work, My Warlock Dream 666 (Attachment 4), Lindall exclaimed "Banez is the greatest

Lindall exclaimed “Banez is the greatest surrealist artist from the Philippines!” In no time the two became good friends. Despite Banez’s stuttering speech born of a mild childhood autism, his manner of comprehension is intensely-focused. The two are able to communicate and share each other’s view of the complexity and depth of Paradise Lost.

Apparently, Lindall had earlier mentioned Banez to Wickenheiser in 2011 as can be gleaned from the book The Milton Projects that he co-authored with the latter (Attachment 5). “I call his art Fiero-electric… the color of hellfire.” His creativity is like “plugged in a socket,” Lindall told Wickenheiser. In the same breath, he admits to have gained insight from the Filipino surreal artist’s statement “Satan gave color to the world” that to him is “insightful and original.” It could have been such a dreary and boring world had not Satan tempted Adam and Eve; because of the fall from Eden humanity learned to pursue the arts, Lindall adds. For their “affinity and absolute parallelism,” he honors Bones (as he calls Banez) with a place in the elephant folio. Particularly, Banez’s name is painted by Lindall below the artist’s palette at the upper border of the Pandemonium page

border of the Pandemonium page (Attachment 6).

In his reply, Wickenheiser commissioned Banez to paint a PL illustration for his collection (Attachment 7). A subsequent email, dated March 11, 2013, addressed to both Lindall and Banez, Wickenheiser expressed his plan to exhibit the addendums to his collection by 2015 and his wish to see both PL artists “soon”. He concluded his email by disclosing a recurring spinal illness he was suffering from (Attachment 8). It is quite touching to know that Dr. Robert J. Wickenheiser eventually died of the illness in 2015, leaving behind his planned exhibit unfulfilled.

Nevertheless, Banez did, not one, but three PL canvases all of which were purchased by Wickenheiser before his death and were included in the latter’s Milton Collection at the University of South Carolina. Three smaller illustrations of his, Banez remembers, were handed over by Lindall to Wickenheiser as the latter was about to board his car upon leaving the WAH Center. Thus, six Banez artworks were added to the collection as confirmed by Associate Dean Elizabeth Sudduth in an email to Banez.

Professor Horace Jeffrey Hodges, another associate of Lindall's, who describes himself as The Gypsy Scholar, dubbed the triumvirate as "The Three Miltonists" in his blog (Attachment 9). The description is changed to The Three Contemporary Miltonists for the exhibit title.

Wickenheiser had assured Lindall and Banez that with the inclusion of their artworks, the catalog, in book form, of The Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton at the University of South Carolina shall be updated. Adding credence to his assurance is a current (2012) copy of the catalog that he gave to Banez (Attachment 10). "It is here that your (PL) illustrations will be added," he told Banez.

Although it is unfortunate that Dr. Wickenheiser had left this world, his legacy lives on. Terrance Lindall, too, is not getting younger at eighty years old and Banez is now sixty-three. It is for these three contemporary Miltonist giants (Attachment 11) that this tribute of an art exhibit is conceptualized.

Project Objective

To present to the public the monumental work of The Three Contemporary Miltonists

work of The Three Contemporary Miltonists as milestone addendum to John Milton's legacy of Paradise Lost.

Project Description

The Three Miltonists Art and Letters Exhibit is originally conceptualized as a solo show by Banez as a Paradise Lost documentary project. It is improved and expanded to include Wickenheiser and Lindall after this writer reviewed the background narrative, particularly Lindall's The Milton Projects which details the collaboration between him and Wickenheiser. Banez made his copy of The Milton Projects available to this writer.

The exhibit roles of the three featured Miltonists are broken down as follows:

Dr. Robert J. Wickenheiser

On behalf of the deceased Dr. Wickenheiser, the USC Special Collections Library shall ensure the updating of the Wickenheiser catalog book and place it as one of the exhibit materials. At least three copies shall be printed of the updated catalog, one for the University of South Carolina Irvin Department of Special Collections, another for the Williamsbug Art and Historical Center

for the Williamsbug Art and Historical Center represented by Terrance Lindall, and the third is for the personal collection of Bienvenido Bones Banez. The USC may print more if it deems necessary.

This author saw only the catalog's photo but judging by its size and from a comment by a reader, I have the understanding the Wickenheiser catalog includes narratives by its author on how he formed his Miltoniana through the years. With Wickenheiser's debilitating spinal illness and eventual passing away, Lindall had the foresight to write their story as told through their exchanges of emails, and had it published. Result: The Milton Projects—the earlier-mentioned book about their collaboration. Writer/anthologist Carter Kaplan comments that the book is instructive both to collectors and artists. This brings us to the proposed contribution and participation of Terrance Lindall to the exhibit.

4.2 Terrance Lindall
The Paradise Lost Elephant Folio, a masterpiece by Terrance Lindall, shall be the centerpiece artwork exhibit material to be flanked by two others, i.e. the updated Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton and

J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton and The Milton Projects.

Lindall shall be a central figure during the opening program by giving a talk on "The Peculiar Grace of God," which is his philosophical conclusion of Paradise Lost. If he so desires, he may act either as exhibit curator or consultant. Considering his age and possible health challenges, he may deliver his talk through recorded video, or by live streaming from the WAH Center.

Bienvenido Bones Banez, Jr.

Understandably, the six PL paintings of Banez already in the Wickenheiser collection shall be displayed, being part of the addendum to the catalog. The three medium-size Banez paintings may either be displayed on the wall or placed respectively on easels, while the two smaller ones may be displayed in exhibit cases. A third option is to build a back-to-back panel board for all five of Banez's PL artworks.

Banez is in the process of painting the portrait The Three Contemporary Miltonists. The canvas is intended by the artist to represent the three foremost dedicated Miltonists of the 21st century. If the USC decides to display the medium-sized painting, Banez shall donate it to the Wickenheiser Miltoniana, thus, shall also be housed in the USC Library of Special

housed in the USC Library of Special Collections.
Event Organizer

The University of South Carolina Library
The USCL shall serve as exhibit venue and organizer, thus, the overall responsible for exhibit management. Being so, USCL shall provide guidance to, cooperate, and coordinate with the curator and the exhibitors. USC students who are taking up English Literature, Theology, Visual Arts, and other relevant subjects and their professors and instructors, shall be invited to view the weeklong exhibit. A Memorandum of Understanding may be formulated between and among the involved parties for clarity and guidance.
Co-Sponsor

Margarita Marfori, a Filipina-American artist and writer has expressed her willingness to co-sponsor said exhibit. As co-sponsor, she commits the following financial support for the exhibit:

The purchase of appropriate display materials for the Banez paintings, be it easels or a panel display board;
Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres for the Opening Program.

Program.
Should Lindall refuse to act as exhibit curator, Ms. Marfori is willing to pay for the roundtrip plane ticket for this writer for him to act as alternative curator.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by

PHILLIP SOMOZO

Conforme:

BIENVENIDO BONES BANEZ, JR.
🇺🇸----------
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Dear Ms Anne Constantino Beck,

Good day! I hope this email finds you well. Bienvenido and I are getting busy to finalize the proposal for the Three Contemporary Miltonists arts and letters exhibit that we are proposing to the University of South Carolina Libraries.

Here now, attached, is the draft copy of the Memorandum of Understanding defining the collaborative framework (from our perspective) between the University of South

perspective) between the University of South Carolina Libraries as project implementor and the Likha Gallery as proponent and co-sponsor. This MOU was written by me to be an integral part of the final copy of the proposal. It is our response to USCL's advice (in earlier communications) for us to look for a co-sponsor that could fill the gaps caused by their limitations.

Particularly, Associate Dean for Special Collections Elizabeth Sudduth cited USCL's limitation in terms of exhibit space, display facility (what they have is more suited for books), and budgetary constraint. By analyzing her email, I understood its import to be a response to the scaled-up version of the project we submitted earlier. In the same email she too mentioned she was retiring in August (this month) and referred us to continue communicating with the Director of the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Dr. Michael Weisenburg.

I have replied to Ms. Elizabeth Sudduth that our project concept is scalable down. Instead of including earlier illustrations of Paradise Lost down history's corridor, we are now content to display Terrance Lindall's elephant folio, the six paintings of Bienvenido Banez, Jr., and the updated Miltoniana catalog of Dr.

Jr., and the updated Miltoniana catalog of Dr. Robert J. Wickenheiser who, before his passing on, donated the whole lot to USCL. Soon as I finish the scaled-down proposal, I will send you, Ms. Anne, being the official proponent, the complete and final copy for you to forward to Dr. Michael Weisenburg.

I have copy-furnished Margarita Marfori, Myrna Santos, and Carter Caplan with this email as a form of update, they being minor sponsors. Likewise with Dr. Michael Weisenburg who will be the final recipient of the Three Contemporary Miltonists arts and letters exhibit proposal.

Thank you, Ms. Anne, and ladies and gentlemen, for giving attention to this humble but noble initiative. Looking forward to a collaboration that shall erect a new milestone for the visual interpretation of that great epic poem, Paradise Lost, by John Milton,

I serve for Humanism's upliftment,

Phillip Somozo.

The Three Miltonists 2027 is postponed!
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Three Miltonists 2027 is postponed!
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is made this ___ day of _____, 2025, by and among:
The University of South Carolina Library represented by Dr. Michael Weisenburg, Director of the Irvin Special Collections Department, with official address at 1322 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208, hereinafter referred to as Organization 1; and
Likha Gallery, represented by founder Ms. Anne Constantino-Beck, with business address at 429 Commerce Street, Hawthorne, NY 10532, hereinafter referred to as Organization 2.
WHEREAS, Organization 1 received and approved a proposal for an art and letters exhibit submitted by Organization 2, and now plans to hold the exhibit entitled "Three Contemporary Miltonists" on year 2027 on a date to be specified later, at a venue in the University of South Carolina campus; and
WHEREAS, Organization 2, being the proponent of said exhibit project, is the co-sponsor of the said exhibit;
Now, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the parties agree as follows:
Purpose: The purpose of this MOU is to establish the framework for a collaborative

establish the framework for a collaborative partnership between Organization 1 and Organization 2 in the co-sponsorship of the “Three Contemporary Miltonists” exhibit.

Responsibilities of Organization 1:

Securing the venue

Provision of exhibit materials, i.e. specific artworks described and/or identified in the project proposal submitted by Organization 2 and received and approved by Organization 1

Curation

Conduct of meetings with Organization 2 to level expectations of both parties

Logistics, i.e. ingress and egress

In-campus publicity

Invitations and Opening Program

Coordinate with Organization 2 relative to the latter’s own execution of its responsibilities

Responsibilities of Organization 2:

Assist Organization 1 in curation and conduct of opening program

Serve as sponsor and host to featured visual artist Bienvenido Bones Banez, Jr.

Provision of cocktails and hors d’oeuvres for the opening program

Provision of easels and/or display table if needed

Multi-media publicity and

Cooperate and coordinate with Organization 1 for successful interface of project activities

Financial Requirements

This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the United States of America.

Dispute Resolution

Any dispute that may arise out of or in connection with this MOU shall be resolved though amicable resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this MOU as of the date first written above.

MICHAEL WEISENBURG, Ph.D.
ANNE CONSTANTINO-BECK
Director
CEO/Founder
Irvin Department of Special Collections
Likha Gallery
University of South Carolina Libraries
Hawthorne, New York City
Columbia, South Carolina

From: **Weisenburg, Michael** <WEISENBU@email.sc.edu>
Date: Thu, Aug 21, 2025, 02:43
Subject: Re: My Final Memorandum of Understanding 2027
To: Bienvenido Bones Banez <benbanezbones@yahoo.com>
Cc: somozophillip108@gmail.com <somozophillip108@gmail.com>

Dear Brother Bienvenido Bones Bañez Jr.

I am writing to inform you that we will not be able to sign this memorandum of understanding nor are we in a position to agree to stage an exhibition or host your organization's event.

While we greatly appreciate Dr. Wickenheiser's bibliographic acumen and generosity, and are proud to be stewards of his collections, the exhibition that you propose is not a good fit for our institution.

Beyond that basic point, I do not have the authority to sign the document you have sent nor can I make arrangements such as these on the University's behalf. Additionally, we do not make a practice

Additionally, we do not make a practice of hosting other organizations curated exhibits, and we do not currently have a plan to exhibit Milton related materials in the near future. Our exhibition planning process is internal and contingent upon a variety of factors related to the department and the university. Finally, as my predecessor, Elizabeth Sudduth has made clear in the past, our gallery is a rare books gallery not suited to exhibiting art.

It sounds like you have an excellent opportunity to work with a local gallery, Likha Gallery, in update New York, and I wish you the best on a fine showing there. But again, I must emphasize that we will not be able to take part in your proposal.

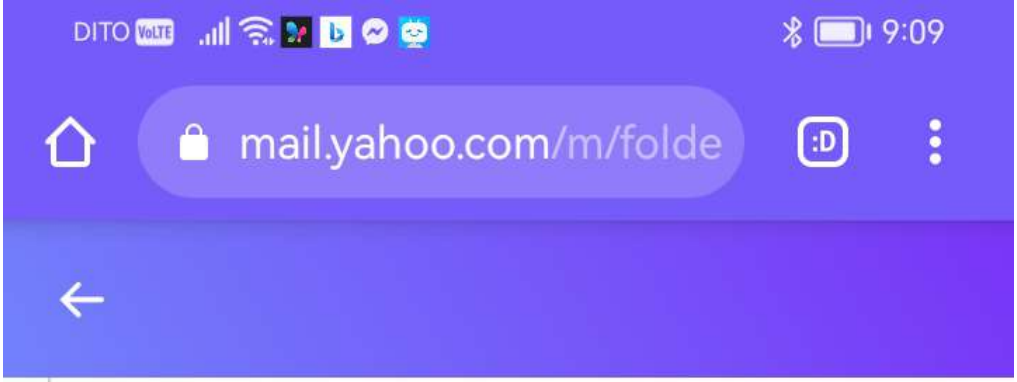
Kind regards,

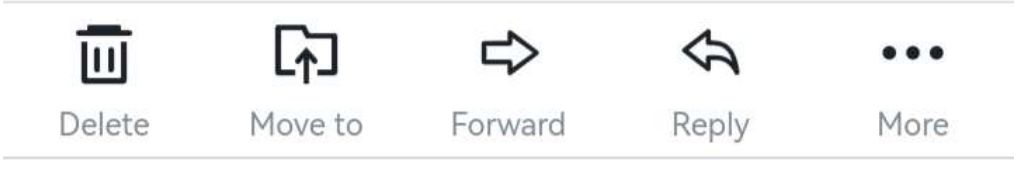
Michael

—

Michael C. Weisenburg, Ph.D.
Director
he/him/his

803-777-2721
weisenbu@email.sc.edu



On Friday, 22 August 2025, 09:06:16 GMT+8, Bienvenido Bones Banez <benbanezbones@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Sir Michael Weisenburg,
I understand your situation, despite Dr Robert J Wickenheiser "wishes" for Me to show at University of South Carolina Library of John Milton according from the book written to "Robert J. Wickenheiser and Terrance Lindall The John Milton Projects 2009-2015". And that is why my reasoning about it, but I understand your message for no need special exhibition of John Milton's legacy in USC Library of John Milton. But my suggestion is: Can I donate my paintings to University of South Carolina Library of John Milton? and that will be happy to Dr Robert J Wickenheiser for my promises. And I hope you have a time for analyzing and reflect this book story from the book of John Milton Projects 2009-2015. And let me know if you accept my paintings for dedication to Dr Robert J Wickenheiser and to fulfill his dreams. Stay blessed and stay strong intellectual discussion.
Sincerely your Brother Bienvenido Bones Bañez Jr.